



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Town of Arlington

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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
First Floor Conference Room
Senior Center
1:00pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen (Chair), Mr. Gregory Leonardos and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick

Staff in Attendance: Christine Connelly, Director of Public Health, Denise Boucher, Health Inspector, Mary Ann Jacobs, Department Secretary

I Minutes of February 8, 2005 were accepted as written.

II COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH INSURANCE PRESENTATION

Andrew Fischer and three members of the Community Based Health Insurance Committee presented a program that would basically provide one insurance provider for the entire population of Arlington. The committee conducted an extensive yearlong study into the health status of the town and what health insurance is available to the residents. A helpful guide has been put together showing how self-insured health plans work, explaining the unique program to insure a whole town under one plan, and the benefits the program will bring to the town. In order to proceed further with this effort, the committee is seeking help from the BOH to study the concept and offer opinions and guidance. Following several minutes of discussion between the Board and committee members, it was decided the plan be considered by the BOH and discussed at a later date with the committee. Christine Connolly will notify Mr. Fischer once a date and time has been agreed upon by the BOH.

III DISCUSSION WITH GALAXY MARKET REGARDING SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO MINORS

Present at the Meeting: Anver Shaikh, owner, and Shajid Shaikh, employee.

The BOH has received several complaints from parents, administrators from the School Dept, administrators from the Germaine Lawrence School, as well as a few calls from the Police Department indicating that Galaxy Market is selling cigarettes to minors. The BOH has been unable to document any illegal sales while carrying out compliance checks, and therefore, cannot suspend the tobacco sales permit. It was made very clear to the owner that the store is being highly scrutinized and if a cigarette sale to minors is documented, they could face penalties of up to six months or even loss of license completely.

IV TIKI IN VIOLATION HEARING

Present at the meeting: Cheuk (Ray) Wong, Betty Wong and Maureen Lee, Food Consultant
In September, the BOH ordered Tiki In closed for three days for repeated food code violations followed by inspections for three months (at a cost of \$100 per re-inspection), and a consultant to correct past problems and guide them to uphold the food codes in the future. A few issues remained unresolved, mainly the installation of a 3-bay sink, and Denise Boucher felt it necessary to have Ray come in and explain the long delay. (However, at this time the sink has been installed.) Other issues involve proper refrigeration of food and a long history of smoking in the establishment. Cigarette smoke was seen and smelled at the last inspection, and a \$200 fine was issued, which appealed through Cambridge District Court. Following a discussion of options available for the restaurant to take in order to meet the requirements of the food and sanitary codes, Tiki In was ordered to close for one week beginning Wed., April 6 to Wed. April 13, 2005. A re-inspection is required by the BOH before re-opening, followed by an inspection every month for three consecutive months (\$100 per inspection). Providing there are no critical violations and written records are available to the BOH documenting specific details, i.e. each time rice is cooked including temperature reached, Tiki In will resume on a regular inspection schedule, which is four times a year.

V UPDATE: Condemned Property 148 Massachusetts Avenue

This property has a long history of violations, and the landlord has neglected to rectify numerous violations. The house is split with three apartment on one side and three on the other. However, one apartment has been divided into two apartments resulting in one illegal apartment. On Friday, March 25,2005, Christine Connolly together with the Fire Dept., Building Inspector and Plumbing Inspector conducted a "top to bottom" inspection and found major violations that could result in death or serious injury to the occupants. The plumbing inspector turned off the gas in the building due to a blocked chimney which resulted in no heat or hot water in the building, Christine Connolly condemned the property and ordered the owner to provide housing for the tenants. The following week in discussions with the Fire and Building Departments, it was decided the building needs a complete overhaul based on dangerous electrical and gas wiring, blocked exits, lack of smoke detectors, etc. Each of these agencies has sent letters to BOH on what is required and relying on this information, and on March 30,2005,a letter was sent to the owner addressing these issues.

VI UPDATE: Activate Arlington/Moving Day

The Arlington School Department received a large grant (\$173,000) from the Carol White Foundation, part of CDC, to emphasize exercise and healthy eating to school-age children. To kick off their campaign, there is walk starting in Arlington Center on the bike path toward Lexington, and participants are urged to do either a 2-mile or 4-mile walk. The grant will be used for changes in the school lunch program toward healthier meals in the elementary grades. Each school will receive an amount of the grant to improve the overall health of Arlington school children.

VII UPDATE: 264 Massachusetts Avenue

This is the site of a new condo building and last July we received a letter from the DEP stating there had be a release of hazard chemicals on the site, which requested documentation formt he owner that it has been addressed. The current owner of the property and the engineering company they are working with have informed the BOH that there will be a risk assessment submitted to the BOH before a certificate of occupancy can be issued.

VIII HEARING REQUEST: Mireille Sainlaire 220 Broadway

Ms. Sainlaire has requested an extension of time for the installation of railings on the back and front stairs of the house as she has been unable to find a carpenter to do the work. Also, photos presented by Denise Boucher show the railing installed in the basement stairwell. The railing must be extended to reach the top of the stairs. It was agreed to give an extension of time with the stipulation that all work must be completed by May 20, 2005.

At the suggestion of Carole Allen, it was agreed that the Chairperson position should be rotated. Gregory Leonardos accepted to become the Board of Health Chair beginning immediately.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, at 5:00pm at the Arlington Senior Center.